



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5608

January Session, 2011

* HB05608PH 031511 *

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CULTURALLY
AND LINGUISTICALLY APPROPRIATE STANDARDS IN HEALTH
CARE SETTINGS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2011*) (a) As used in this section:
2 "CLAS standards" means standards 4 to 7, inclusive, of the Culturally
3 and Linguistically Appropriate Standards issued by the United States
4 Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Minority Health
5 mandating that language access services be provided by health care
6 providers who are recipients of federal funds.

7 (b) On or before October 1, 2011, the Commission on Health Equity
8 shall establish a collaborative committee consisting of representatives
9 from various health care entities that shall monitor and ensure
10 accountability in the adoption of CLAS standards by health care
11 providers receiving federal funds in the state. The collaborative
12 committee shall consist of the following members: The chairperson of the
13 the state Commission on Health Equity; the chairperson of the
14 Connecticut Multi-Cultural Health Partnership; the Commissioner of
15 Public Health; the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction
16 Services; the Healthcare Advocate; the president of the Connecticut
17 Hospital Association; the chief executive officer of the Community
18 Health Center Association of Connecticut; the president of the board of
19 directors for the Connecticut Center for Primary Care; the executive

20 director of the Connecticut State Dental Association; the chairperson of
21 the board of directors of the Mental Health Association of Connecticut;
22 the president of the executive board of directors of the Medical
23 Interpreting Association of Connecticut; the president of the board of
24 directors of the Connecticut Nurses' Association; the president of the
25 Connecticut Emergency Nurses Association; the chairperson of the
26 state Commission on Pharmacy; and the chief executive officer of the
27 Connecticut Association of Healthcare Facilities. Any member of the
28 committee may appoint a designee to serve in the same capacity as the
29 appointing member. The chairpersons of the Commission on Health
30 Equity shall select a chairperson and a vice-chairperson of the
31 collaborative committee from among the committee membership. On
32 or before January 1, 2012, the chairperson of the collaborative
33 committee shall convene the initial meeting of the committee. The
34 committee shall meet quarterly thereafter or more often as needed at
35 the call of the chairperson.

36 (c) The collaborative committee shall: (1) Prepare quarterly reports
37 concerning the adoption of, and compliance with, CLAS standards by
38 health care providers in the state; (2) conduct an analysis of the
39 number of individuals with limited English proficiency served in
40 health care settings and the methods used in such settings to ensure
41 compliance with CLAS standards; (3) establish a self-monitoring board
42 that ensures culturally competent health care access throughout the
43 state; (4) conduct train-the-trainer workshops on best practices in
44 implementing and complying with CLAS standards; and (5) annually
45 report to the General Assembly on its findings, including a report on
46 the challenges of implementing the language access services mandated
47 by CLAS standards. In carrying out the duties prescribed in this
48 subsection, the collaborative committee shall seek advice and input
49 from individuals and entities that are representative of the broad
50 spectrum of health care providers in the state.

51 (d) On or before January 1, 2013, and annually thereafter until
52 January 1, 2018, the collaborative committee shall report, in accordance
53 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, on its

54 activities to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
55 having cognizance of matters relating to public health, human services
56 and insurance and real estate. The collaborative committee shall
57 terminate on January 1, 2018.

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| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
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| Section 1 | <i>July 1, 2011</i> | New section |
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PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*